



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 1 March 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

Proactively Released

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Regional Applications and Projects

- SLU / Reference group
 - The Reference Group met in Wellington on 23 February, to consider and provide feedback on several DOC projects which were all endorsed.
 - We are still awaiting the final signatures on the outstanding SLU Minister approval paper.
- National Summary – Work in process

| Status | Number of projects |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| In assessment | 15 |
| In approval process | 24 |
| Approved, not yet contracted | 23 |
| Contracted | 28 |
| Total | 90 |

- We have received 15 projects so far for assessment in the upcoming round and expect to have received more by the submission deadline of 26 February. These will be provided to you in a briefing by 11 March, and we will work with your office to schedule a Dragon's Den meeting.
- 9 of the 15 projects were received from Northland, with regional staff indicating that a further 3 projects were also expected by the submission deadline.
- We have now shifted from using Deeds of Grant to a Funding Agreement template, to speed up the signing process, project delivery and job creation.
- Four deeds of grant/agreements were executed in the last week, including the Wainuiouru restoration project (LNI); Kaimahi Connected project (NSI); Orange Fronted Parakeet project (ESI); SBN Partnering to Plant (stage 3: Auckland-focus).
- Quarterly reporting
 - We received seven project reports. One has been approved and one milestone payment made, the others did not meet the standard for payment.
- We are expecting the larger Tairāwhiti project application to have been received by 26 February.
- The CNI
 - The Karori Ecosanctuary project that you were briefed on at the officials meeting on 24 February was not able to be submitted to SLU Ministers for approval, as it has not yet received Reference Group feedback. This will be included in the next round of approvals. We have been notified that Ngāti Rangī representatives may contact you directly regarding this project and delays in approval.

Workstream


- QEII National Trust
 - We have been working through the Trust's agreement and funding profile and are in the process of preparing a briefing which will be provided to you in the next Jobs for Nature project round.
- Community Fund
 - Applications are now closed. We received 391 applications and are currently assessing them. We will provide your office with an update once the assessment process is complete.

- Nga Awa
 - Two projects are in development (Whanganui and Arahura) and we expect these to be with you for approval before the end of March. One project is waiting with SLU Ministers for approval (Pelorus).
- Kaimahi for Nature, Regional and National
 - Projects continue to come into the system. We are expecting the majority of the Kaimahi for Nature funds to be committed by the end of March.
- Maori Land Grant
 - Jobs for Nature staff have been team members to the draft approach for the Jobs for Nature Maori Land Fund (\$31M), and we will brief you separately on this.

Relationship Scan

- Institute of Skills
 - DOC's People Group is progressing conversations with Te Pūkenga around growing conservation skills.
- Ministry of Social Development
 - MSD and DOC have completed drafting a Pathway Plan on how we work together through Jobs for Nature and beyond. We have a timeline in draft, which will be completed in the next few weeks. We will socialise the Strategy and Pathway Plan with you in the coming months.
 - DOC and MSD representatives meet at national level each week. Regional Partnerships Managers are connected to local MSD Labour Market Managers to ensure we connect on Jobs for Nature Projects.
- Ministry for the Environment
 - The secretariat is carrying out an audit on the Jobs for Nature programme. Reference Group members are currently being interviewed. This will be followed by interviews with agency staff.

Other

- Ministerial briefing
 - 
- 180-day assessment
 - We continue to monitor and track the progress against the 180-day assessment. An appendix on progress will be provided to you in the briefing early in the week of 1 March.

Weekly Dashboard (Standing Item) – As at 24 February





Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: 

1.2 RMA Advocacy Update

DOC's recent RMA work is as follows:

Submissions

Horizon Trust Management Ltd, Quarry Expansion, Hawera

- Taranaki Regional Council has limited notified a resource consent application to expand an existing quarry operation at Wheku Road, Normanby, Hawera.
- We lodged a submission in opposition to the application on 18 February. We believe the proposal may adversely affect the freshwater values (water clarity, sediment smothering of species etc) of the Waingongoro River and that appropriate conditions need to be imposed to minimise these adverse effects.
- The submission outlined that we are willing to engage with the applicant and the Council in discussing and agreeing to mitigation methods/consent conditions prior to a hearing being required.

Offspring Travel Ltd, Fiordland

- Offspring Travel Ltd undertakes guided kayak tours in Doubtful Sound/Patea. Its original resource consent application sought to increase the size of the support vessel, increase the number of clients per tour and the number of tours per annum, and extended the area covered to include Thompson Sound/Te Awa-O-Tū.
- We lodged a submission opposing the application, with the key issues being to protect biodiversity (including bottlenose dolphins) and natural character, and ensure consistency with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, Southland Māhiki Conservation Management Strategy, the Fiordland National Park Management Plan, and the operator's concession agreement with DOC.
- Following pre-hearing engagement, the applicant has reduced the size of the vessel sought, removed Thompson Sound/Te Awa-O-Tū from the application, and provided further information on marine mammal management. Environment Southland has also recommended that the number of tours be capped at their existing limits. As a result of these actions, we have withdrawn our right to be heard at any hearing.

Appeals

Plan Change 1 to the West Coast Regional Land and Water Plan

- Te Rūnanga o Mākaawhio appealed the West Coast Regional Council's decision on Plan Change 1 in mid-2020.

- Plan Change 1 intends to confirm the boundaries of mapped wetlands within the regional plan and to make other changes to rules for the protection of wetlands from forms of land development.
- Under section 274 of the RMA, DOC joined in opposition to the Te Rūnanga o Mākaawhio appeal but have now withdrawn its interest.
- The primary reason for the withdrawal of interest is the amended notice of appeal by Te Rūnanga o Mākaawhio, which refined the scope of their appeal and limited relief sought to the mapping of the area identified on Māori reserve land as wetland KAGP008 in Schedule 2 of the Plan.
- In addition, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and National Environmental Standard for Freshwater 2020 have now come into effect and these contain specific provisions regarding wetlands and their sustainable management that limit the effect of Plan Change 1.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Proactively Released

2 Updates

2.1

[Redacted text block]

Contact: [Redacted text]

2.2 Eastern South Island: Longfin tuna mortality event associated with University of Canterbury research

- A PhD student from the University of Canterbury carried out a survey for inanga in Waikewai Stream (tributary of Te Waihora).
- On 8 February, six fyke nets with eel exclusion grids (designed to prevent tuna entering the net) were set in the stream close to the Ngāti Moki marae (site location was chosen in discussion with whanau). The nets were retrieved the following day.
- On retrieval of the nets, approximately 50 longfin tuna were found dead in three of the nets, which were full of tuna that had squeezed through the exclusion grids into the nets. The remainder (200 to 250) were in poor condition. The tuna were approximately 500 mm in size and classed as feeder (i.e., not in migratory/heke condition) tuna.
- The student released the dead tuna downstream and took the remainder of the tuna further downstream, where there was good flowing water. The tuna were held in the flowing water in the nets until they were visibly swimming, before being released back into the waterway.
- Approximately one week later, a member of the public discovered approximately 200 to 300 dead longfin tuna in a debris dam downstream of the survey site.

This find was reported to Environment Canterbury which has been investigating the issue.

- The student subsequently returned to the waterway, retrieved the eels, and buried them on the local marae.
- The mortality event was likely caused by an overnight oxygen sag (very low dissolved oxygen levels) instream. However, we do not have data on the environmental conditions at the time of the survey.
- We do not think the mortality event is a result of inexperience or poor sampling technique. The student carrying out the research is experienced with fyke netting. However, following the incident, the student has made changes to the sampling methods and equipment to reduce the chance of this re-occurring. This includes the reduction of the size of the eel exclusion grid in the fyke nets, and a review of sampling sites.
- The University of Canterbury has a research and collection permit for freshwater survey work with DOC, which is in the process of being renewed.
- We are initiating a review of the research and collection permit conditions to make sure they are suitable for reducing the likelihood of mortality events while using fyke nets.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Te Papa Atawhai's Workforce Strategy (WFS)

- We are developing a Workforce Strategy (WFS) to support DOC's recently updated organisational strategy (Te Kaupapa a te Papa Atawhai) and better align our people capabilities with its desired outcome.
- The WFS is a guide to building the workforce capabilities and culture we need to thrive in our future operating environment (2025-2030). DOC's operating model (including Working with Others) is used as context. Importantly, it sets the direction for how we will build and sustain a diverse organisation, as well as grow the next generation of Conservation Warrior. The document is intended to be practical and easy to implement. It draws on a robust social process with our people and connects with our business planning system. It recommends specific work activities we can start on now to introduce a more mature approach to workforce planning.
- A draft of the Strategy has been completed and will be shared with you once SLT feedback has been both received and incorporated.

Contact: Ginny Baddeley Deputy Director-General People: [REDACTED]

2.4 DOC/N WA Weather Forecasting Partnership

- The weather forecast service transitions from MetService to NIWA on 2 March and the new NIWA Weather forecasting website goes live on that date.
- DOC's official weather forecasting website can be viewed at www.weather.niwa.co.nz/parks.
- External promotion of the website will occur from 2 March via:
 - Media release
 - DOC and NIWA Facebook and Twitter channels for a two-week period
 - A feature article in Wilderness magazine in April
 - Communication with DOC's key stakeholder partners.
- There may be some adverse reaction from forecast providers who were not successful in securing the contract to provide DOC with services. DOC will respond to media and other enquiries as received.

- We are satisfied with the integrity of the procurement and evaluation process, and that this process adhered to government procurement rules. The quality of engagement with NIWA has been excellent since the partnership agreement was signed.
- We have been actively rebuilding a positive relationship with MetService.
- Over 230 staff have been trained in the use of the weather data that the NIWA service will provide.
- Key partner Mountain Safety Council is supportive of DOC's decision to provide accurate weather forecast data in National Parks.
- The DOC website will still host links to MetService sites where appropriate, specifically the Severe Weather Watches and Warnings.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Change to infringement notices for rental vehicles – Freedom Camping Act 2011

- DOC enforces the Freedom Camping Act 2011. Following the successful implementation of a new enforcement system that enables us to track and manage infringement fines, we will implement a change to the way infringement notices are issued for rental vehicles.
- We will begin issuing infringement notices to rental car companies, as registered owners of the vehicles. This will only happen when the driver is not with the vehicle at the time the notice is issued.
- The Freedom Camping Act enables rental car companies to recover infringement fines and associated administration costs from the driver, provided the rental agreement permits this. This is the same way that rental car companies handle the recovery of speeding fines from their customers.
- DOC is communicating with rental car companies and, following feedback, will finalise the date we will start issuing notices to these companies (expected to be late autumn 2021). An information sheet will then be circulated to a wider stakeholder group, including local councils, Central Government's Responsible Camping Working Group, NZTA and Police.
- DOC is not trying to stop freedom camping – we are working to protect sites where freedom camping is either prohibited or restricted.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

March

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 04 March | NEXT Outlook breakfast, The Prefab Hall, Te Aro |
| 04-05 March | Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge |
| 16–17 March | SLT marae visit with Nga Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui, Whanganui |
| 20 March | Southern Seabirds Board meeting, Kaikoura |
| 24 March | Public Service Leaders' Summit 2021, TSB Arena Queens Wharf, Wellington |
| 26 March | Pureora Forest Park – celebrate 2000 Kokako pairs, Pureora Forest Park |
| 30–31 March | DOC Senior Leadership Team Retreat, Ponui Homestead Wairarapa |
| 31 March | Mana Rangatira Governance Board Dinner, Wellington |

April

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 01 April | Signing MOU with Corrections CEO, Rimutaka Prison |
| 13 April | DOC Senior Leaders hui, TBC |
| 15–16 April | NZ Conservation Authority, TBC, Napier |

May

| | |
|--------|--|
| 20 May | Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Silverstream |
|--------|--|

Proactively Released

4 Addendum

This section includes content that is sensitive or is being considered by the Minister of Conservation or other Ministers. This information is not being released proactively.

Subject headings of the content in this section are:

- Royal Honours
- Kauri protection
- [REDACTED]
- One Billion Trees (1BT) Update
- Auckland: Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki governance wānanga invitation

Proactively Released



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 08 March 2021

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation


Date: _____ / _____ / _____

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Regional Applications and Projects

SLU / Reference group

- Applicants are being notified and the projects moving into the contracting phase after the 2 March approval from SLU Ministers for 14 projects over \$1M from the February round.
- 
- A joint memo to Ministers has been prepared (21-B-0134) outlining an improved integrated approach between Jobs for Nature agencies towards future freshwater projects.

National Summary

| Status | Number of projects |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| In assessment | 15 |
| In approval process | 13 |
| Approved, not yet contracted | 35 |
| Contracted | 30 |
| Total | 93 |

Assessment Update

- We have received 20 projects for assessment in the upcoming round. These will be provided in a briefing by 11 March and presented at the Dragon's Den session scheduled for 15 March.
- Of the 20 projects, 13 are over \$1 million and 7 are for noting under \$1 million. 11 of the projects are from Northland, with others from Eastern South Island, Tairāwhiti and the Central Plateau.
- The CNI: Karori Ecosanctuary project discussed at the officials meeting on 24 February has now progressed to the Reference Group for feedback in an out-of-cycle round. Subject to Reference Group endorsement, this project will be included in the next round of approvals for SLU Ministers.

Workstreams

- The Private Land Biodiversity fund closed on 16 February and received around 125 applications requesting approximately \$91.5million. These are currently being prepared for assessment and we expect decisions to applicants in April.
- There have been 450 employment starts in Kaimahi for Nature regional and national projects to date. A significant number of projects are expected to be submitted to Jobs for Nature for assessment prior to the end of March. If all these projects are approved, it is estimated that \$4.47 million of Kaimahi for Nature funding will remain.
- South Island Threatened Species - Currently in the final stages of completing the detailed business case while working with Ngāi Tahu to create a path forward to hiring Māori into the programme.
- We are currently preparing a briefing to seek your approval of the purpose, criteria, and allocation model for Māori Land Grant.
- Nine of the 12 sub-projects are now up and running. FTEs are on target, with roles created well ahead of target.
- You will receive a briefing on the status of PF2050 Ltd in the week commencing 15 March.

- The QEII briefing and Letter of Expectation will be sent to your office this week, with notes on the JFN component in the MOC briefing that we are currently preparing for the Dragon's Den meeting on 15 March.
- The business case for Raukumara Ranges is undergoing final approvals and we are working collaboratively with iwi to progress the project.

Ngā Awa

- Three Ngā Awa projects have been approved and are in deed negotiation.
- One project, the Arahura, has been submitted this week and is being assessed, and one, the Whanganui, is pending submission.
- If all progress to approval, \$35 million of the Ngā Awa JFN funds will have been allocated, with approximately \$27 million remaining of the original \$64.5 million, allowing for overheads.
- The remaining funds are recommended to be included in a multiagency freshwater agency approach. You will receive a joint briefing on this soon.
- The Pelorus project has received approval from SLU Ministers on 2 March and will now proceed to the contracting stage.

Relationship Scan

- Ongoing engagement continues with MSD to ensure we build an enduring relationship and gain access to relevant employment data.
- We are engaging with other agencies in the Secretariat Audit as well as MfE to shape the development of reporting and monitoring dashboards.

Other

- A draft decision paper was provided to your office on 1 March. Once we have your feedback we will commence agency engagement.
- Some of the JFN Unit are visiting Nelson this week to understand the impact on the region, including meeting with iwi, council, contractors, and Jobs for Nature recruits.
- Work is also being done on what the future state of JFN work may look like.



Contact: Neil Deans, Acting Chief Advisor, Jobs for Nature, 

Proactively Released

1.2 RMA Advocacy

DOC's recent RMA work is as follows:

Submissions

Marlborough Environment Plan – submission on aquaculture variation

- When the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan was notified in 2016, the chapter providing policy direction and rules to manage aquaculture development was held back for further work.
- We were part of a collaborative working group with the council and others to develop aquaculture areas, providing for the industry while ensuring that marine farms are appropriately located. Those proposed areas, and parallel work by MPI on salmon farming in Marlborough, led to two variations being notified at the end of 2020.
- We have lodged a submission on the variations under delegation on your behalf, generally supporting the proposals but seeking some changes to ensure they work as intended.
- In preparing the submission we consulted extensively with MPI, so that your submission and the MPI submission are aligned.

Hearings

Porirua City Plan Change 18 – Plimmerton Farm

- The Minister for the Environment has approved the plan change. As detailed in a recent memo to you, accompanying a draft response to Friends of Taupo Swamp and Catchment, this plan change provides for residential subdivision on an area of land known as Plimmerton Farm, through a streamlined planning process.
- We were a submitter in this process and sought greater recognition and protection of wetland values.
- The plan change was granted on the condition the wetlands are protected and runoff to Tāupo Swamp, a significant wetland at the bottom of this catchment, is managed appropriately. This outcome is satisfactory.

Appeals

Proposed Regional Plan for Northland – Marine Protected Areas

- We have recently joined (as a s274 party) in support of appeals to the Environment Court by Bay of Islands Maritime Park Inc and Forest and Bird on this plan.
- The appellants seek to create marine protected areas in the Bay of Islands, under a similar approach to that taken for the Motiti Islands in the Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Plan. As in that case the outcome of the appeals will come to you for approval as part of the coastal elements of the regional plan.
- There are strong positions both for and against the relief sought by the appellants from a wide range of parties, including whanau, hapū and iwi.
- MPI is also a party to these appeals (in partial opposition), so we are working with them and Crown Law to provide a joint, aligned Crown case. Further information can be provided if required.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 Auckland - Beachcast Māui dolphin

- Given the endangered status of the Māui dolphin there is considerable public interest in any incidents involving them.
- On 25 February 2021, a member of the public reported a beachcast Māui dolphin on Muriwai Beach in Auckland.
- Kaitiaki from Ngāti Whātua were present when DOC Auckland staff collected the dolphin from the beach. A karakia was given for the dolphin, which was subsequently named by [REDACTED] of Ngāti Whātua.
- The dolphin will be transported to Massey University in Palmerston North for necropsy once Auckland returns to Alert Level 2.
- It is unlikely that cause of death can be determined definitively due to the advanced decomposition of the dolphin, however, there was evidence of a shark bite.
- We notify all stakeholders on incidents involving Māui dolphins every quarter via an on-line update. The next update is scheduled for May 2021.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Auckland - Updated Māui dolphin abundance estimate due late 2021

- Through the coming months we will provide further updates on wider work underway to support the protection of the Māui dolphins.
- Field work to survey Māui dolphins for an updated abundance estimate was completed on 28 February 2021.
- The previous estimate from 2016 estimated just 63 Māui dolphins aged over 1 year, making them one of the world's rarest dolphins.
- There will likely be public interest in the new abundance estimate, including possible calls for more to be done if the estimate is lower than the 2016 figure.
- Please advise if you require a briefing ahead of the release of the estimate.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Lower North Island - Kāpiti Gateway Project given go ahead

- Kāpiti Gateway is a proposed building complex to connect the Kāpiti Coast mainland to Kāpiti Island Nature Reserve.
- The proposal incorporates a visitor meeting space and biosecurity services for trips to the Island and has been relatively contentious in the community for two decades.
- We support the proposal, while conveying that our investment is on the island itself, not in funding the building.
- Kapiti iwi (Ngati Toa Rangatira, Te Atiawa ki Kapiti and Ngati Raukawa) unanimously support the project and have gifted the name 'Te Uruhi'.
- In 2019, Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) secured matched funding of \$2 million from the Provincial Growth Fund for the project.
- In February KCDC voted in favour of the gateway project proceeding.
- We will work with KCDC to support development of the project, specifically supporting the biodiversity provisions.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Southern South Island - Wildlife disturbances in Coastal Otago

- There has been a concerning increase in human disturbance or killing of wildlife in coastal Otago in the first two months of 2021.
- We are following up on seven incidents including:
 - three serious events in which four fur seals/kekeno appear to have been shot
 - alleged disturbance of sea lions/pakake by a company extracting sand from a Dunedin beach
 - juvenile gulls run down by vehicles in the Taiaroa Head/Pukekura carpark.
- We are undertaking our own compliance and working with the Police and other authorities as required.
- At this time of the year wildlife are more vulnerable because they are rearing their young, hoiho are restricted to land while they moult, and people are out enjoying the beaches and coastline.
- Dogs, vehicles, and people engaging inappropriately with wildlife are generally the main causes of incidents. Wildlife also wander onto roads and people's properties.

- DOC, the New Zealand Sea Lion Trust, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, and community volunteers work together to monitor hoiho, pakake and kekeno on local beaches and carry out advocacy.
- We undertake proactive media at this time of the year to advise the public about coastal wildlife on beaches and where people may take dogs.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Tahr Programme

- The draft Tahr Control Operational Plan for 2021/22 (TCOP) was shared with the Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group (TPILG) on Monday 1 March.
- In preparing the draft we were pleased to receive constructive and balanced contributions from the TPILG members, much of which was taken on board. Following your recent meeting with the Game Animal Council, the Council provided you with their written contribution that had previously been supplied to us.
- The draft TCOP outlines similar control effort to last year on tahr outside the feral range (all stakeholders are supportive of this work), with effort in the breeding range mainly focusing on the West Coast where the highest densities remain.
- There has been considerable interest from hunters and hunting groups in the annual plans over the last three years and we expect that to continue. At this stage, the intent from the TPILG is to continue constructive and open discussion away from media while the plan is in draft.
- The TPILG will meet on 16 March in Christchurch to discuss the draft TCOP and a decision on the final plan is due on 10 May.
- Further information was provided to you in 21-B-0113.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Options Development Group for the partial reviews of the general policies

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Whio Awareness Month

- March is Whio Awareness Month, an annual event for the Whio Forever programme, which is the result of our partnership with Genesis.
- This year we are celebrating 10 years of partnership with Genesis to restore whio populations throughout Aotearoa. Our partnership is currently being renegotiated for a further period; they are expressing strong on-going support.
- Whio Awareness Month will be a predominately digital event, with activities and competitions happening on social media, web, media, internal channels, and radio.
- As you supported whio for Bird of the Year 2020, you may want to say something through your social media channels during Whio Awareness Month, custom content can be provided if required.
- There are less than 3,000 whio estimated in the wild, making them rarer than some species of kiwi. Whio are a key indicator of healthy rivers and streams; the more breeding pairs, the healthier the river.
- The five-yearly national whio census is currently underway across seven high priority, intensively managed whio sites. The census monitors outcomes of our work with our partners.
- There may be an opportunity for you to attend a whio release later in March; a formal invitation would be extended if the release goes ahead as planned.
- Further information on Whio Awareness Month can be provided if required.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Proactively Released

3 Director-General Engagements

March

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 16-17 March | SLT marae visit with Nga Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui, Whanganui |
| 20 March | Southern Seabirds Board meeting, Kaikoura |
| 24 March | Public Service Leaders' Summit 2021, TSB Arena Queens Wharf, Wellington |
| 25 March | DOC Stakeholder BBQ, DOC National Office |
| 26 March | Pureora Forest Park – celebrate 2000 Kokako pairs, Pureora Forest Park |
| 30-31 March | DOC Senior Leadership Team Retreat, Pounui Homestead Wairarapa |
| 31 March | Mana Rangatira Governance Board Dinner, Shed 5 Wellington |

April

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 01 April | Signing MOU with Corrections CEO, Rimutaka Prison |
| 13 April | DOC Senior Leaders hui, TBC |
| 15-16 April | NZ Conservation Authority, TBC Napier |

May

| | |
|--------|--|
| 20 May | Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Silverstream Retreat |
|--------|--|

Proactively Released

4 Addendum

This section includes content that is sensitive or is being considered by the Minister of Conservation or other Ministers. This information is not being released proactively.

Subject headings of the content in this section are:

- [REDACTED]
- Auckland- Bycatch of Black Petrels
- Lower North Island - SOE Lease to MetService, Kelburn Wellington
- Western South Island – Paparoa Judicial Review [legally privileged]
- Southern South Island - Milford Opportunities update
- Myrtle rust update

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

Several above items refer to events which you may want to attend.

Proactively Released



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 15 March 2021

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Proactively Released

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Regional Applications and Projects

SLU / Reference group

- All 17 applicants from the 2 March SLU Minister approval round have been notified of their approval-in-principle status and these projects have now entered the negotiation phase for funding agreements (note status in the table below as 'approved, not yet contracted').
- You will have now received a paper updating and summarising projects for consideration as at 10 March [21-B-0157 refers]. Following the assessment process, there are 12 projects over \$1M threshold, and five projects under that threshold which will be presented to you at the Dragon's Den meeting on 15 March.
- We are awaiting final SLU Minister approval of two projects over \$1M: [AL10.2 CNI: Karioi Rahui Ecosanctuary project] and [AL6.6 Tucker Beach restoration project]. We will progress these projects once we are notified of the outcome of this recommendation for approval.

National Summary

- The current state for projects held is outlined below.

| Status | Number of projects |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| In assessment | 7 |
| In approval process | 17 |
| Approved, not yet contracted | 39 |
| Contracted | 30 |
| Total | 93 |

Assessment Update

- We have worked through assessments for all projects outlined in 21-B-0157, which include 10 projects from Northland. Eight of these projects are recommended, with two requiring further consideration. We will present the Northland projects to you at the Dragon's Den meeting to gather your feedback.
- Assessments have also been undertaken on further projects for the Lower North Island, Central North Island and Eastern South Island.
- Development and planning work is now complete for QEII National Trust \$8M investment (an outline of this programme of work is also included in 21-B-0157). Staff will be available to respond to any questions at the Dragon's Den meeting.

Workstreams

- **Community/Landowner Fund**
Applications have been sent to regional Directors to seek their input and prioritisation. We will provide you with a full list of Private Land Biodiversity Fund and Community Conservation Fund projects, including those that are recommended for approval, in late March/early April.

Te Hoiere/Pelorus Nga Awa

- Relationships are positive and in a maintenance and enhancement phase. Discussions are ongoing to identify opportunities to work more closely together, including preparation of a joint agency briefing on better integration of freshwater fund deployment.

- You will receive an interagency briefing for SLU Ministers outlining a suggested approach towards better integrating deployment of remaining freshwater Jobs for Nature funds by the end of the week beginning 15 March. This will recommend interagency assessment of proposals to ensure their most effective deployment will not propose interagency funds transfer without explicit ministerial agreement.
- Projections show most funding from Kaimahi for Nature Regional and National will be committed by the end of March.
- Jobs for Nature has been advised that we will receive the final business case for the South Island Threatened Species project. There have been progressive discussions held with Ngāi Tahu with agreement to plan the recruitment of Māori into the programme, through Papatipu Rūnanga.

Protection of North Island Indigenous Forest

- Raukūmara – This project is making good progress. Michelle Hippolite will provide you with a summary of the operational report for your weekend pack. At the governance level, the discussion is focused on the core characteristics of our partnership model. The next governance meeting is planned for the end of March, in Te Kaha.
- Kaimai Mamaku - Unlike the Raukūmara Kaupapa, we are starting further back in terms of defining the impact we are after, and the work. There is no shortage of iwi, hapū and community interest, and we need to focus on the protection management and cultural connection strategy.
- The Kaimai has been segmented into six forest hubs: support for two hubs (Whakamarama and Mokaihaha) has been funded to mobilise community engagement on pest development to 30 June. A further project to support Kauri Ambassadors has also been supported to the end of this financial year.

Relationship Scan

Ministry of Social Development

- We are continuing ongoing engagement to ensure we build an enduring relationship and gain access to relevant employment data.
- MSD and DOC completed a timeline for implementing the Pathway Plan and Strategy. This generated opportunities to work together, which we will explore over the coming months. We will socialise these with you this month.

Secretariat/Other JFN agencies

- We are engaging with other agencies in the Secretariat Audit, and with MfE, to shape the development of reporting and monitoring dashboards.
- The Jobs for Nature Programme Secretariat is undertaking a cross-agency audit to provide the Reference Group and SLU Ministers with assurance across the Programme. The auditors have selected six projects from across the Programme, two of which are from DOC.
- The six projects are spread across the country and are a mix of Council, iwi and private groups, with a mix of funding. The Auditors have met with officials from DOC and are focusing on the two projects below:
 - Korehāhā Whakahau – Whakaari/White Island re-set
 - SSI Alliance: Weeding Fiordland's buffer zone
- We anticipate a draft of the audit report early April with the final report ready to be presented to the Reference Group on 29 April. The Programme will provide SLU Ministers with an update following the presentation to the Reference Group.

Communications Update

- We have reviewed and updated our public-facing website. Our Web Team has applied an information architecture approach to the content development to ensure it is audience-focussed.
- We have developed an internal newsletter, 'Mahi mo te Taiao'. This will be sent on a fortnightly basis to our staff to keep them informed.
- We have started filming for our Jobs for Nature video series in collaboration with the Health Promotion Agency. Stories will highlight the social/wellbeing impact of gaining nature-based employment through the Jobs for Nature projects.
- We are also collaborating with MfE on a video series highlighting Jobs for Nature projects. The next project is based in Gisborne and filming is scheduled for later this month.
- We received a media query from *The Press* (with a subsequently published story) regarding the Lower Rangitata. This project has been approved-in-principle and we are working with the Project Partner to finalise the funding agreement before a formal announcement can be made. We are working with your office on this.
- The following media releases are being drafted and going through internal sign off:
 - Kotahitanga mo te Taiao (Project 6): Kaimahi for Nature Connected
 - Kotahitanga mo te Taiao (Project 5): Restoring and Protecting Significant Flora Ecosystems at Scale
 - SSI Regional Partner (Project 2): Fiordland Undaria Control Programme
 - Taranaki (Project 1): Ka whakaaraara te tanga, ka whakaora te wai, ka whakahoi te taonga
 - ESI Regional Partnership: Orange fronted kakariki
 - W BoP Regional Partnership: Restoration of the Maungaruahine Heritage Pa
 - Lower Rangitata Waterway Restoration
 - Conservation Leaders Programme
 - Ngāti Hei - Te Haumana A Tahanga Kauri Dieback
 - Sustainable Business Network - Stage 3 Partnering to Plant
 - Te Ara Manu Creating an eco-corridor between the south-west covenants and Waitangi township
 - WSI: Predator Free South Westland Pitt Island Species Habitat Protection

• [REDACTED]

Weekly Dashboard (Standing Item)

- Please refer to report attached as a separate document.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: [REDACTED]

1.2 Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS implementation

Workstream updates

Governance & oversight workstream

• [REDACTED]

• [REDACTED]

Interim reference group

- As discussed at our last meeting with you, we are planning to stand up a group of around 10 'thought leaders' from across the biodiversity system in Aotearoa. The group would act as a reference group to help test the thinking and outputs of the implementation work programme over the coming months (until a governance mechanism is in place).
- An overview of this group and a long list of names to test with you will be provided later in the week beginning 15 March for your consideration and feedback, prior to any approaches being made.

Māori rights & interests

- This workstream is being led by [REDACTED] and includes [REDACTED] and others. Additional resources, particularly in the technical biodiversity space, are currently being secured to support this mahi to ensure the right mix of skills and perspectives. We can work with your office to arrange a Zoom meeting with this rōpū if you wish.

- [REDACTED]

Financial implications for implementation

- This workstream is updating an existing picture of the baseline level of financial investment in biodiversity across central and local government.
- This will be supplemented by investment data from other entities where possible (i.e. private sector and other organisations), to provide a broader picture of investment in the biodiversity system.
- Analysis of the current activities across the system is also underway to assess how they collate to deliver against the Strategy and where the remaining gaps are for action. [REDACTED].

Monitoring & reporting workstream

- This workstream is working with other parts of the monitoring and reporting system, (including StatsNZ, MfE and MFAT) on how to best map the linkages, and leverage the opportunities for alignment, across the various related initiatives in the broader environmental reporting & monitoring space.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.3 RMA Advocacy Update

Appeals

Regional Plan for Northland: decision released on appeals regarding water allocation rules:

- We lodged an appeal on the proposed Regional Plan for Northland in 2019.
- The issues of concern relating to water allocation were;
 - the potential for cumulative adverse effects to arise from a non-complying activity status for water takes below minimum flows/water levels or exceeding an allocation limit
 - the potential effects of water takes below minimum flows for rootstock survival during droughts
 - the discretionary activity status for changes in dune lake levels.
- We opposed these because they could allow significant adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems, undermine the purpose of minimum flows and allocation

limits, and did not give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

- Through direct negotiation, we were able to reach agreement with Horticulture NZ on appropriate parameters for rootstock survival water takes. These allow some water takes below the primary minimum flow, to protect established horticulture crops during droughts, but are limited by a secondary minimum flow.
- A hearing on the unresolved matters was held in Whangarei from 27 to 29 October 2020. The Court released its decision on 25 January 2021 and upheld our concerns.
- The Court approved the agreement between DOC and Horticulture NZ; found that water takes below minimum flows/water levels or exceeding allocation limits should be a prohibited activity (except with respect to applications for new public registered drinking water supplies); and found that changes in dune lake levels should be recast as a non-complying activity.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Proactively Released

2 Updates

2.1 Lower North Island: Marine Reserve Rangers, FNZ, Tairāwhiti

- You queried the role of FNZ in Tairāwhiti, in monitoring and prosecution in relation to the marine reserve (21-B-0156 refers), and our communication with FNZ.
- There is no requirement for FNZ to monitor or prosecute in Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve. If FNZ detects or assists with offences in the reserve it generally passes files on to DOC to lead the prosecution. We have led approximately 50 successful prosecutions since the marine reserve was established in 1999.
- While we are responsible for the Marine Reserves Act 1977, offences under various Fisheries Regulations also apply to marine reserves. Due to the abundance of kaimoana in reserves, excess and undersized offences are common. Offenders may be charged jointly by DOC and FNZ under both the Marine Reserves Act 1977 and the relevant Fisheries Regulations.
- FNZ oversees commercial fishing and a digital system for tracking, reporting, and monitoring commercial fishing activity. At times, FNZ will take prosecutions against commercial fishers for marine reserve offences, as was the case in a recent prosecution in Hikurangi Marine Reserve, which has been covered in the media.
- DOC's Tūranganui-a-Kiwa / Gisborne office has a good relationship with FNZ in Tairāwhiti. We appreciate the work of FNZ, which regularly patrols the reserve by vehicle and boat when it is in the vicinity. FNZ is aware that a DOC Marine Reserve Ranger (compliance and monitoring) role is pending, through informal communications.
- We have been communicating with FNZ nationally about our wider marine reserve management programme.
- We have been discussing the new Marine Reserve Ranger roles, joint training, and the potential to cross-warrant Marine Reserve Rangers to allow DOC to support FNZ with enforcing Fisheries Regulations.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Eastern South Island: Aoraki/Mount Cook SAR Team Rescue

- DOC's Search and Rescue (SAR) team supported a search for a missing tramp on 27 February near Mungo Pass in the Canterbury High Country.
- The tramp had been overdue three- four days and Aoraki SAR carried out an aerial search focusing on the steep and technical terrain leading from Gibson Stream up to Mungo pass.
- With limited time due to an incoming weather system, the team modified the search strategy to include ground search techniques. Foot tracks were found in the main drainage leading up to the pass which narrowed the search area.
- The team located the tramp, still alive, but off route just below the pass. He had taken a fall seven days earlier and sustained significant injuries.
- The SAR team provided medical care for 45 minutes before the air ambulance arrived. The tramp is still in a critical state in Christchurch Hospital, with further complications due to exposure and dehydration.
- This was a successful multi-agency collaboration between Police, LandSAR, and Te Papa Atawhai.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Southern South Island: Mohua decline in Dart Valley (Whakatipu-wai-Māori district)

- In 2000, the mohua population in the Dart Valley was estimated to be >100 groups per km. By 2020, the estimated population was 0.48 groups per km, an approximate decline of 99.52% over 20 years. Rodent predation, exacerbated by cyclical beech mast events, has been the primary cause of the decline.
- To combat this, in September 2019 the Dart Valley was aerially treated with 1080 as part of DOC's Tiakina Nga Manu (TKN) Programme. While the operation reduced the rodent population to less than 4% which was considered a success, numbers bounced back quickly. The 2020 mohua survey showed a further 48% reduction in the mohua population from the 2019 survey results.
- There are several variables that may have led to the rodent numbers, including:
 - the timing of the aerial 1080 operation
 - abundance of food (seed) resulting in small home ranges
 - application rates of 1080 potentially too light to counter small home ranges
 - the buffering of sensitive areas which meant that gaps resulted in providing rodents with safe harbours.
- Significant concerns have been expressed by Ngāi Tahu and local community conservation trusts over the rapid decline of the mohua population in the Dart.
- We are working to develop a five-year recovery plan alongside Ngai Tahu, the Mohua Recovery Group, the Routeburn Dart Wildlife Trust, and our own Tiakina Ngā Manu Programme.
- DOC's Whakatipu-wai-Māori district's biodiversity staff have been doing further work supporting the Routeburn Dart Wildlife Trust (RDWT) to apply for Jobs for Nature funding to expand its efforts in the Te Awa Whakatipu catchment.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Southern South Island: Rakiura Great Walk Huts bed bug infestation

- Bed bugs were identified at Rakiura Track Great Walk huts, Port William and North Arm, as well as other Rakiura accommodation providers in February.
- On advice from professionals, treatment of bed bugs in our Great Walk huts to date has included spray, fumigation, and heat treatments. These have all unfortunately been unsuccessful. Some trampers are still getting bitten and it is an ongoing problem.
- An educational approach has been taken to inform trampers through track updates, e-mails through the booking system, and up-to-date information delivered by visitor centre rangers and hut wardens.
- A professional pest control contractor from Christchurch will be undertaking further bed bug control on 16 March and returning on 20 March for re-inspection and re-application where required.
- If the bug control continues to be unsuccessful, we will need to consider other options, which may include removing and replacing some of the interior lining and bunks at North Arm Hut.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Predator Free Summit - Weaving the threads of the Predator Free movement into a korowai to protect te taiao

- It has been six years since the Government announced the PF2050 initiative. The Predator Free Summit will showcase what has been achieved and learned over that time.
- We are planning to hold the summit on 10-11 June at Te Papa. A cocktail event will be held on the evening of 10 June, with field trips in the afternoon of 11 June. Attendance at the event is by invitation and we are expecting 200 people to attend. Television personality, Jessie Mulligan, will MC the event, and the Prime Minister has been invited to open it. Invitations to a wider audience will be sent in the week beginning 15 March.
- The Summit's purpose is to deepen the understanding of, and connection to, the Predator Free programme.
- The outcomes the summit will deliver are:
 - Celebrating the Journey so far
 - Clarity and understanding of the predator free programme
 - Showcasing the innovation phase of the programme
 - Confidence moving forward and a vision for the future
- The major risk to the event is a change in COVID levels. Te Papa has excellent protocols in place for COVID level two. We are currently working with Te Papa and conference organisers to plan how we could deliver the conference online. Strategies could include filming or recording speakers prior to the event that could be shared online, where we could run question and answer sessions.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Meeting with Ministers of Environment and Energy on NZ Battery project

- We advised you in December (20-B-0876) that we were seeking funding for a conservation assessment of the Lake Onslow area in Central Otago as part of the NZ Battery project.
- MBIE has agreed through an MOU to fund DOC \$614,000 to do this assessment and provide a report on the conservation values by February 2022.
- DOC has been asked by MBIE to attend a meeting with the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Energy, along with eNGOs, on the NZ Battery project on 15 March.
- We will provide a high-level overview of our role in this work, and a broad outline of the conservation values that we provided you in December.
- We will update you on this meeting in the next status report.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

Contact: [Redacted]

2.8 Involvement with MBIE, WorkSafe, DPMC and NEMA post Whakaari

- We have provided WorkSafe with our visitor safety policy, standard operating procedures, best practice guidelines, and how we manage volcanic visitor safety in Tongariro National Park, and staff safety on Raoul Island.
- DOC's Principal Advisor Visitor Risk gave a statement to WorkSafe on how we manage visitor risk in Tongariro National Park.
- [Redacted]
- The Principal Advisor Visitor Risk has been involved as a member of the Expert Reference Group for phase one of the MBIE targeted review of the Adventure Activity Regulations and will be part of the Expert Reference Group for phase two.
- The Expert Reference Group is expected to function until Cabinet decisions regarding proposals are sought in July.
- We have also had input into the landslide and volcanic risk assessment work being carried out by DPMC that will be going to the Hazard Risk Board.

Contact: [Redacted]

2.9 Collective Bargaining

- Te Papa Atawhai is currently in bargaining for its first Tier 4 (Managers and Principal/Senior Advisors) collective agreement with the PSA.
- The Tier 5 (staff) collective agreement with the PSA expires on 31 March and bargaining will begin on 20 April. Bargaining was delayed due to PSA availability.
- Te Papa Atawhai and the PSA have a High Performance Engagement Charter supporting a positive working relationship. Several issues in relation to collective bargaining have already been progressed outside the formal bargaining framework.
- Officials are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

Contact: Ginny Baddeley, Deputy Director General | People: [REDACTED]

2.10 Building Conservation Education and Learning Pathways

- We have begun exploring the benefits of a 'Conservation Sector' approach to workforce training, skills development, and career pathways.
- We met with Te Pukenga Deputy Chief Executive Warwick Quinn on 3 March to progress the concept of a conservation-focused training ecosystem and identify other stakeholders with an interest in the idea.
- We believe there is much to gain by providing access to a range of core conservation skills that can become pathways to broader capabilities and qualifications, while also building overall sector capability and capacity.
- Our next step is to facilitate an initial discussion with iwi, regional councils, and NGO's to understand the experiences and gaps in the current 'training and education approach'. We can then define an optimal model which each entity can use to build and develop critical conservation skills.
- This will allow 'eco-warriors' to have access to common learning, irrespective of the pathway into the work. We will continue to provide you with updates as this work progresses.

Contact: Ginny Baddeley, Deputy Director General | People: [REDACTED]

2.11 New Zealand's International Shorebird Strategy 2021-2025

- Earlier this month, DOC adopted New Zealand's International Migratory Shorebird Conservation Strategy 2021-2025. This Strategy will enable more effective prioritisation of our international work on migratory shorebird conservation and provide a framework for multilateral and bilateral engagement.
- Approximately 35 species of migratory shorebirds have been reported in New Zealand. Bar-tailed godwits and red knots are the priority species for our international conservation efforts. New Zealand's migratory shorebirds breed in Northern Siberia and Alaska, and over-winter here in New Zealand, using a network of coastal wetlands to refuel during their annual migration. The Yellow Sea east of China is the most significant stopover site for migratory shorebirds and is also the location where they face the greatest threat.
- Threats include shoreline habitat loss and change, intentional capture and harvest of species, climate change, marine debris, and oil spills. Cooperating with other countries where the migratory shorebirds breed and/or stopover is our most

effective means to influence the conservation of these species beyond our jurisdiction as a complement to domestic conservation effort.

- The purpose of New Zealand's International Migratory Shorebird Conservation Strategy 2021-2025 is: to improve the conservation status of New Zealand's migratory shorebirds through international engagement.
- The Strategy sets out outcomes and priority work under three objectives: influencing international policy and commitment, delivery in key range states, and knowledge building.
- The Strategy was developed in consultation with MFAT and Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust, as key partners in this work. The first step in implementation of the Strategy is to work collaboratively with MFAT to develop a plan for effective engagement with China as the principal target range state.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Proactively Released

3 Director-General Engagements

March

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 16-17 March | SLT marae visit with Nga Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui, Whanganui |
| 20 March | Southern Seabirds Board meeting, Kaikoura |
| 24 March | Public Service Leaders' Summit 2021, virtual meeting |
| 25 March | DOC Stakeholder BBQ, DOC National Office |
| 26 March | Pureora Forest Park – celebrate 2000 Kokako pairs, Pureora Forest Park |
| 30-31 March | DOC Senior Leadership Team Retreat, Pounui Homestead Wairarapa |
| 31 March | Mana Rangatira Governance Board Dinner, Shed 5 Wellington |

April

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 01 April | Signing MOU with Corrections CEO, Rimutaka Prison |
| 13 April | DOC Senior Leaders hui, TBC |
| 15-16 April | NZ Conservation Authority, TBC Napier |

May

| | |
|--------|--|
| 20 May | Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Silverstream Retreat |
|--------|--|

Proactively Released

4 Addendum

This section includes content that is sensitive or is being considered by the Minister of Conservation or other Ministers. This information is not being released proactively.

Subject headings of the content in this section are:

- Jobs for Nature
- Northern North Island: Rākau Rangatira Project, Waipoua
- [REDACTED]
- Federated Mountain Clubs letter re Heritage and Visitors Strategy
- International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL)
- Decision on Review of Mainstream Media Process
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Subsidiary Body for Implementation 'informal' meeting, 9-15 March 2021
- Ngati Hei / Jobs for Nature Kauri Dieback project
- Whio release into Arthur's Pass National Park

Proactively Released



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 22 March 2021

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Regional Applications and Projects

National Summary

- We are now seeing a strong pipeline of projects being developed in regions, with several regions informing us that they have between \$20M - \$35M worth of projects ready for submission.
- 14 projects totalling \$41M were presented to you in briefing 21-B-0157. We have included the projects endorsed by you into the upcoming Reference Group papers for the Reference Group meeting scheduled for Thursday 25 March. We will follow up on your questions when received and will provide your office with a response on the remaining projects.

Current state as at 17 March

| Status | Number of projects |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| In assessment | 4 |
| In approval process | 20 |
| Approved, not yet contracted | 38 |
| Contracted | 30 |
| Total | 92 |

Assessment Update

- 17 projects have moved from the Assessment process to the Approval process in the last week.
- The number of Contracted projects has not changed, but we are expecting six projects to be contracted that only require internal sign off.
- The majority of agreements are with partners, not JFN. They are given 15 days to confirm their agreement.

Project Update

- The Ngā Awa Waikanae restoration funding agreement is in the process of being signed by the parties.
- The Pest Free Banks Peninsula Trust agreement has been signed by Recipient.
- The Ngāti Hei agreement has been signed by Recipient.

Workstreams

Community Conservation Fund and Private Land Biodiversity Fund

- Regional prioritisation for the Community Conservation and Private Land Biodiversity funds have been received by Jobs for Nature and they will go to the central assessment panel the week beginning 22 March.

Ngā Awa

- We have received the Whanganui and Arahura catchment project applications.
- Arahura has been assessed and input from other agencies will be sought at the earliest opportunity.
- Whanganui has been submitted and is currently being assessed before progressing to the same panel.
- If successful, ~\$10.9M for both these projects will then be progressed to you for endorsement.

- [REDACTED]

SI Threat SPP

- A detailed business case has been developed and is due to be approved on 22 March. Plans are in motion to begin recruitment with immediacy thereafter.

No update

- Kaimahi for Nature
- QEII National Trust
- Maori Land Grant
- Kiwis for Kiwi
- Predator Free 2050
- North Island Indigenous Forests

Relationship Scan

Ministry of Social Development

- No update.

Ministry for the Environment

- [REDACTED]

- MfE met with Minister Parker to discuss the drawdown of their remaining Jobs for Nature funding (\$153m) and the action plan for its distribution. He has forwarded the action plan to Minister Robertson for approval. Minister Parker was supportive of the concept of coordinating freshwater investment across agencies.

- [REDACTED]

Weekly Dashboard- As at 17 March

- Please see attached Minister's Update Dashboard

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor - Jobs for Nature, [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 Meeting on NZ Battery project update

- As noted in last week's status report, DOC joined MBIE officials in attending a meeting on 15 March with Minister of Energy Hon Woods and Minister for the Environment Hon Parker and eNGOs, on the NZ Battery Project.
- The main action point from the meeting was for eNGOs to consider how they wanted to engage on the NZ Battery and Lake Onslow work.
- Minister Woods will be extending an invite to you in the future for similar meetings.
- DOC provided a high-level overview of our intended work. This will be: first, to determine the conservation values at the Lake Onslow site; and, second to place these values in a local and national context.
- We will update you on our timelines for field work and analysis once our project planning is complete in April.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Identifying options with Ngāti Waewae to ensure a sustainable future of the Arahura marae and pā

- This item follows on from a conversation that you had with François Tumahai, Chair of Te Runanga O Ngāti Waewae, during your visit to Hikitika in December 2020.
- Conversations are continuing between the Department and Ngāti Waewae to identify options in regard to developing Papakāinga housing on the stewardship land (North Bank Arahura Road Conservation Area) directly behind the Arahura marae.
- This would allow the marae, urupā and pā sites to be co-located and reduce the impact of climate change and associated natural hazards on the current pā site (sea level rise, inundation, tsunami risk, flood risk, the Alpine Fault, and associated liquefaction risk).
- Seven different options have been identified. We are investigating a potential land swap with a Schedule 1 wetland and associated forest at Lake Tarlton (currently under Ngāi Tahu Forest ownership).
- We are working with Te Puni Kōkiri to understand if a Māori Reservation layer could be applied to the Conservation Area to enable Papakāinga housing. Ngāti Waewae are currently preparing a Cultural Report for us to assist with decision making.
- We're able to provide further information on all options and investigations if requested.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Southern South Island: Rakiura Aquaculture RMA Notified Application

- In March 2020, Ngāi Tahu Seafood (NTS) applied to Southland Regional Council for a resource consent under the RMA to establish a 2,500ha open ocean salmon farm off the northern coast of Rakiura. This is in addition to the ASA and is a separate proposal.

- DOC is considering the application and the potential for adverse effects on marine conservation values (marine species and habitats) at the proposed site. We have been engaging with NTS to raise concerns regarding potential effects, as per the advocacy function under the Conservation Act 1987 and the NZ Coastal Policy Statement, and are likely to be a submitter in some form as the application moves through the resource consent process.
- We are responsible for monitoring marine species, particularly hoiho, and this information is of importance in identifying and avoiding effects of the proposal on these species. In June 2020, an overlap was found of the proposed salmon farm site and presence of hoiho as confirmed by tracking data. This was identified as a 'potentially very significant' issue.
- Eudyptes Eco Consulting was engaged by the Department to provide a short advice report titled "What are the actual and potential effects of the proposed Ngai Tau Seafoods salmon farms on hoiho?". Eudyptes concluded in the case of hoiho, an endangered species that faces regional extinction on the mainland, a precautionary approach would be warranted.
- The next step is for NTS and our technical experts to have a meeting, to share and understand the matters raised by the technical reports.

Contact: [Redacted]

2.4 Loder Cup 2021

- [Redacted]

| | |
|------------|------------|
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] |
| [Redacted] | [Redacted] |

- [Redacted]

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Update on firearms licence backlog

- The issue of delays in firearms licence application processing and the risk of licences expiring was raised with you by the Game Animal Council (GAC) in a letter dated 28 January and again in your zoom meeting with the GAC on 19 February.
- We understand that your office transferred the GAC letter to Minister William's office who responded directly to GAC.
- GAC's 2 March newsletter to stakeholders stated, "The good news is that this intervention has already produced results with Minister Allan working with Police Minister Poto Williams to have the Police commit additional resources to alleviate the backlog".
- DOC has a positive relationship with Police, strengthened further over the last two years as DOC has responded to firearms legislation changes. Particular focus has been on the changes to the prohibited firearms that we utilise, and support for the changes in our internal processes relating to firearms.
- We recently discussed the firearms licence backlog with Police. The backlog of firearms licences is attributable to a firearms licensing process review in early 2020, impacts of COVID-19 and additional compliance requirements.
- Police predict the backlog will be significantly decreased within the next few months. Their priority focus for decreasing the backlog will be on dealer and firearms licence renewal applications, with a secondary focus on first time applications.
- Police actions to decrease the backlog of firearms licences include deploying significantly more staff to this work, and improvements to training, licensing processes and systems. Police have also widely communicated to the community to apply four months before the expiry of current licences.
- We are communicating regularly with Police and will keep you updated with any significant developments in relation to firearms licencing.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Tahr Control Operational Plan for 2021/22

- The draft Tahr Control Operational Plan for 2021/22 (TCOP) was discussed with the Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group (TPILG) at a meeting in Christchurch on 16 March.
- DOC was pleased with the continuing constructive and balanced discussion/ among the TPILG members during the meeting. The TPILG restated their intent to continue constructive and open discussion with us away from media while the plan is in draft.

- The draft TCOP outlines similar control efforts to 2020/21 on tahr outside the feral range (all stakeholders are supportive of this work), with effort in the breeding range mainly focusing on the West Coast where the highest densities remain.
- There has been considerable interest from hunters and hunting groups in the annual plans over the last three years and we expect that to continue.
- A decision on the final plan is due on 10 May.
- Further information on the Tahr Programme was provided to you in Briefing 21-B-0113- Management of tahr.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Environmental Monitoring & Reporting System

- MfE is leading a multi-year programme to build a national Environmental Monitoring and Reporting System (EMRS). The vision is a comprehensive, nationally coordinated, environmental monitoring system that improves the evidence base for decision making.
- To ensure the design of the EMRS is appropriate for biodiversity data and monitoring, DOC has been active in the strategic and programme governance for the programme since mid-2020. A DOC technical specialist is now coordinating biodiversity input to the MfE project team part-time.
- Our involvement will enable the integration and alignment between the EMRS and the monitoring and data frameworks developed through Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. DOC is the lead agency within EMRS for the biodiversity component.
- Statistics New Zealand and regional councils are also part of the EMRS work programme.
- You will be updated regularly on DOC’s contribution.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy implementation

| | |
|------------|------------|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

[REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 Ethnic pay gap analysis

- As discussed in a recent DOC Officials meeting, you requested information on the Ethnic Pay Gap. At this meeting we discussed diversity data at Te Papa Atawhai, this included information on our gender pay gap which is 1.8%, one of the lowest in the public service.
- We have been doing further analysis on the ethnic pay gap to better understand the reasons for the gap.
- The Public Service Māori pay gap is 9.3% vs 4.6% at Te Papa Atawhai. Detailed statistical analysis is being completed which seeks to identify potential explanatory variables for pay gaps between Māori and non-Māori employees, and/or identify areas of specific concern where no justification can be found. This work is similar in approach to the recently conducted investigation of gender pay gaps across the Public Service.
- For Pacific Peoples and Asian ethnicities, the pay gap is a negative number, meaning the average salary for Pacific and Asian employees is greater than the average salary of non-Pacific employees or non-Asian employees.
- Due to the small proportion of people who identify as either Asian or Pacific employees, it is unlikely we will be able to complete the same level of analysis for Pacific and Asian pay gaps.
- There are six ethnic groups used by Statistics New Zealand. Te Papa Atawhai reports on the percentage of employees who identify in each of the six ethnic groups on a quarterly basis. As part of the Public Service Commission's Human Resource Capability Survey, pay gaps are calculated annually for Māori, Pacific and Asian ethnic groups.
- We will provide you with an update on the outcomes of the Māori pay gap analysis as soon as this information is available.

Contact: Ginny Baddeley, Deputy Director General – People, [REDACTED]

2.10 Media attention on seabird bycatch in fisheries

- During the Annual Review by Environment Select Committee earlier this year, a question (question 174) was asked on seabird bycatch in fisheries.
- A reporter from TVNZ has approached Fisheries Inshore New Zealand (an industry representative organisation) for comment about the data as reported by DOC.
- The data was provided to DOC by Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) and was based on the number of birds reported bycaught by fishers.
- The data showed an increase in bycatch over time.
- The accuracy of fisher-reported data has been improving thus the overall increases in bycatch would be because fishers are reporting more of what they catch.
- DOC is working to address this bycatch with FNZ and Fisheries Inshore New Zealand.
- The National Plan of Action on Seabirds set out our programme goal of working towards zero by-catch.

- DOC works closely with fishing companies and tries to educate them on ways to prevent seabirds going for fish caught on hooks or lines.
- DOC also leads a liaison programme, visiting individual fishers to help them develop seabird mitigation plans for their boats.
- At this stage DOC has not been approached by the media on this matter, and a response to any future enquiry will be coordinated with FNZ.
- FNZ have briefed the Minister Parker on this matter, and through this item DOC seeks to do the same for you in case you are approached for comment.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Proactively Released

3 Director-General Engagements

March

24 March Public Service Leader's Summit 2021, Virtual (Zoom) meeting
25 March DOC stakeholder BBQ, Te Papa Atawhai
26 March Pureora Forest Park- celebrate 2000 Kōkako pairs, Pureora Forest Park

April

07 April Environment NGOs Forum, Te Papa Atawhai & MS Teams
13 April DOC Senior Leaders hui, Te Papa Tongarewa Wellington
15-16 April NZ Conservation Authority, Napier
29-30 April Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge Wairapa

May

11 May Te Urewera Board hui, Tāneatua (TBC)
13 May Tūwharetoa Maori Trust Board hui, Te Puni Kōkiri Wellington
20 May Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Silverstream Retreat

Proactively Released

4 Addendum

This section includes content that is sensitive or is being considered by the Minister of Conservation or other Ministers. This information is not being released proactively.

Subject headings of the content in this section are:

- Southern South Island: Southland Aquaculture Settlement Space
- Southern South Island: Penguin Place Hoiho Rehabilitation Facility
- Predator Free 2050 Limited: [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Timeframe for processing permissions applications- response to questions
- Minister of Tourism's announcement of direction for tourism and release of the Tourism Futures Taskforce interim report
- [REDACTED]
- Fisheries New Zealand proposals relating to the Southern Squid Fishery Operational Plan and New Zealand sea lion/pakake/whakahao

Proactively Released



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 29 March 2021

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Regional Applications and Projects

- SLU / Reference Group
 - The Jobs for Nature reference group met on 25 March and were asked to consider endorsing seven projects (previously endorsed by you) which are over \$1 million.
 - An SLU Ministers meeting has been scheduled on 7 April. You will receive a briefing from Minister Parker prior to that meeting, likely by 1 April. One of the matters to be considered will be the approval of the seven DOC projects.
 - [REDACTED]
- National Summary
 - We are expecting seven further projects from Southern South Island (Otago/Southland) to be submitted this week, as well as a portfolio of projects from Hawke's Bay.

Current State (as at 24 March)

| Status | Number of projects |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| In assessment* | 20 |
| In approval process | 19 |
| Approved, not yet contracted | 34 |
| Contracted | 35 |

* plus assessment of the Community Fund and the Private Landowner Fund projects

- We have received a proposal regarding Myrtle Rust and are working through this with our National Operations team.
- Six funding agreements were finalized, and the contracts were executed in the week beginning 15 March. There are three Ngā Awa funding agreements (Waikanae, Lower Rangitata, Upper Rangitata) in their final stages of assurance and signing by partners. Waikanae is expected to be finalised by 29 March.

Workstream

- **QEII National Trust** - A briefing [21-B-0221] was provided to your office on 18 March, requesting that you reconsider your decision to decline funding for the QEII project titled: JFN0026 Protecting the Gains, based on the additional context provided in this briefing.
- **Community/Landowner Fund** - A central panel met on 24 March to assess the regional prioritisation for both these funds.
- **Ngā Awa** - Four projects have been approved to date, the remaining two have been assessed by the JFN Unit and will go before a Freshwater interagency panel for further endorsement on 30 March. They will then proceed to the next level of approval. [REDACTED]
- **Kaimahi for Nature Regional and National** - With limited remaining funds available and Kaimahi for Nature's appropriation being for 3 years only (until end FY23), any proposals received after 1 April (Q4), will be considered for 2 years funding. There will be work undertaken with regional staff and applicants to better understand this constraint.
- **South Island Threatened Species** - The Detailed Business Case is now in the process of endorsement and approval. Funds are expected to be released next week and the programme will commence.

- **Māori Land Grant** - No update.
- **Kiwis for Kiwi** - We are currently processing a quarterly report and instalment payment three.
- **PF2050** - You have been briefed separately on this from the DOC Governance Team
- **North Island Indigenous Forest** - No update.

Relationship Scan

- The work we are progressing with Te Pukenga is critical. We are starting to explore the concept of a 'virtual Conservation Academy' which would deliver a suit of foundational 'courses' (aligned to the NZQA framework), on an open-source platform to build skills. This would be a shared resource for organisations involved in Conservation work i.e., Iwi, TLA's, RC, DOC etc.

Other

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- **Communications update**
 - There are currently two Funding Announcement media releases awaiting your approval.
 - A further 32 are currently being drafted and are at various stages of sign off. More are being added weekly (once they have been approved in principle by SLU Ministers or DOC's Chief Advisor). Our preference is to wait until funding agreements (deeds) are signed before announcements are made.
 - The Prime Minister's office has requested a list of potential Jobs for Nature projects that the PM could visit while in Rotorua/Taupo on 31 March. This visit has not been confirmed.
 - We continue to meet with the inter-agency communications group and are working collaboratively with communications colleagues at the Secretariat, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Social Development, Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries, and Regional Councils Special Interest Group.
 - The Jobs for Nature Secretariat has created a video which highlights the programme. We have shared this video with your office for feedback. This video will appear on the Jobs for Nature website that will be launched in early April.
 - We have been providing input towards the development of the Jobs for Nature website which will be hosted by the Ministry for the Environment.

Weekly Dashboard (Standing Item)

- Attached is the programme status update (as at 23 March).

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor - Jobs for Nature, [REDACTED]

1.2 Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS implementation (Week of 22 to 26 March)

Workstream updates

- [REDACTED]
- Monitoring and reporting workstream
 - We are continuing to meet with other agencies to establish alignments, clarify roles and responsibilities, and progress with related monitoring and reporting initiatives that will support, or inform, the pathway to implementation.
- Other work areas
 - We are continuing to assess the financial implications for implementation and progress a stocktake to assess the current costs associated with biodiversity work across DOC, the Regional sector, and other agencies.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.3 DOC RMA Advocacy Function

- DOC advocacy function is outlined under section 6(b) of the Conservation Act 1987 (CA) “to advocate the conservation of natural and historic generally”, and section 53(3)(d) of the CA, (Powers of the Director-General), which requires the Director-General to advocate for the conservation of aquatic life and freshwater fisheries generally. We carry out these functions via engagement in council planning and resource consent processes under the RMA and processes under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (EEZA).
- DOC advocacy looks to ensure regional and district plans set frameworks that achieve better conservation outcomes for consenting processes. When considering specific consent applications, we advocate for how improved outcomes can be achieved, rather than looking to stop the activity from occurring.
- RMA advocacy support is resourced from several groups within DOC. This includes:
 - a 15 member RMA Planning team who provide the required planning expertise;
 - 7-8 FTE budgeted technical staff hours from the Biodiversity Group who provide marine, freshwater, threats, and terrestrial advice, and
 - approximately 7 FTE budgeted staff hours in the Legal Services team who contribute to RMA advocacy.External technical advice is sought only when expertise is not held in house.
- We rely on several tools to guide and prioritise our advocacy work including a National RMA and EEZA Advocacy Strategy, an internal prioritisation framework for triaging which process we engage in, and systems that ensure visibility and tracking of the end-to-end process of engaging in RMA procedures.
- A considerable amount of effort is put into early consultation with councils in the development of RMA plans and with applicants for resource consents, this is to ensure the protection of priority conservation values is provided for, upfront, in these processes.

- We are currently consulting with councils on the development of 14 RMA planning processes, that are likely to be notified within the next 1 to 2 years. We are also an appellant or party to appeals for a further nine council planning processes. Some of these processes have been going for multiple years and have required significant ongoing engagement.
- The recent changes to freshwater national direction mean many regional councils will now need to review their land and water plans within the next 4 years, eight regional councils have yet to review their regional coastal plans. These reviews will require significant amounts of engagement from us over the coming 5 years.
- Below are a few examples where our advocacy through RMA processes has led to significant outcomes for conservation. These include:
 - negotiating outcomes with Oceana Gold Limited in their development of an opencast gold mine in North Otago, to avoid loss of freshwater habitats for threatened galaxias fish, wetlands and significant habitats for lizards and gaining a significant offset and compensation package to the benefit of conservation;
 - ensuring adequate provisions are included in District Plans to control the spread of Kauri dieback in the Upper North Island;
 - support for Marlborough District Council in research and submissions to identify and protect significant marine biodiversity, in the regional coastal plan;
 - ensuring that large scale urban developments near Hamilton recognise, protect and enhance the significant habitats for long tailed bats/pekapeka along the adjacent Waikato River corridor;
 - protecting the foraging habitat for threatened fairy tern by opposing development in Mangawhai Harbour; and
 - gaining protection for habitats of threatened galaxias fish in Otago's Lindis River, as well as establishing beneficial relationships with the landowners where these fish are located, through the water plan process.
- Wherever possible we work alongside iwi, other organisations and community groups with similar advocacy functions, ensuring the collective weight of advocacy is coordinated, creates efficiencies and a shared understanding when there are differing priorities between submitters.
- Further detailed information can be provided, should you require it, on how we are undertaking this work within DOC.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 Auckland – tara-iti / New Zealand fairy tern breeding

- In December 2020, 12 New Zealand fairy tern/tara-iti eggs were removed from nests due to storm events and taken to the Auckland Zoo for care.
- Under management at the Zoo, four eggs were hatched; however, only one chick survived. This was the first time since the 1990s that captive hatching of tara-iti has been attempted.
- The surviving chick was raised for 3 weeks at the Zoo and was then moved to a purpose-built aviary at Te Arai, north of Auckland, until it was released into the wild in January.
- The bird was given the name Tai Moana by Te Uri o Hau.
- Tara-iti have a total population of around 40 birds and is likely the rarest indigenous breeding bird in Aotearoa.
- The story of our partnership with Auckland Zoo on managing this conservation success has been documented in a video, which was released through media channels by the Zoo and DOC on 26 March.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Western South Island - Ōpārara Basin Karamea Kahurangi National Park

- This is an update on the Ōpārara upgrade project in Karamea, our last update was in November 2020.
- The purpose of the project is to improve visitor safety and experience by:
 - improving the deteriorating McCallum Mill Access Road and Ōpārara arch track, to provide a safe and fit for purpose experience for visitors.
 - supporting the re-establishment of the cultural relationship and footprint with this place Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae have, through storytelling and installation of Pou Whenua
- Project delivery is well advanced. Track and structures work and roading improvements will be carried out in the coming months.
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae, Buller District Council, Development West Coast and the community of Karamea all endorse the project.
- The project will also deliver broader social and economic benefits to the Karamea and Buller communities which are a domestic tourism “hub”. Significant increased domestic visitation has occurred post-March 2020 COVID-19 lockdown.
- Defeated Mountain Clubs, Forest and Bird, and the New Zealand Speleological Society, have raised concerns with you in a letter dated 12 March. Their concerns focus on the increasing number of visitors to the Ōpārara Basin, and the potential risks that increased visitor numbers pose to the conservation values of the place, as well as potential impacts from physical works and structures.
- Legal and planning advice, a full Assessment of Environmental Effects, and a Landscape Visual Assessment have been completed to ensure that works are well designed and fit this environment sensitively. Advice confirms that the project works are consistent with the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan 2001, and the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Management Strategy 2010-2020.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Inclusion and Diversity story telling

- The Inclusion and Diversity work programme at DOC aims to build an organisation that reflects the communities we serve across New Zealand.
- Overcoming perceptions of the work we do and the people we employ is part of our approach. In response, we have developed a storytelling series 'More Than Meets the Eye' which profiles the diversity of our people, their background and experiences of their work.
- We have made some recent examples available to your office, through film and written articles.
- On a bi-monthly basis, both internally and externally, we will publish more stories to enable a wide audience scope. Our ambition is to make as many staff as possible feel heard and able to talk about their contribution towards Papatuanuku Thrives.
- This, we believe, will also create a sense of connection between regional and national office staff and, importantly, to the work of our Māori, Pasifika and Asian staff.

Contact: Ginny Baddeley, Deputy Director General – People, [REDACTED]

Proactively Released

3 Addendum

This section includes content that is sensitive or is being considered by the Minister of Conservation or other Ministers. This information is not being released proactively.

Subject headings of the content in this section are:

- New Business Partnership with Merrell New Zealand
- Forestry Ministers' meeting
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Upcoming International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee meeting
- Reserve 3535 (Hawdon Flats Reserve, near Arthur's Pass National Park): Mt White pastoral lease
- Myrtle Rust infecting reproductive structures of mānuka
- Statutes Amendment Bill Proposal

Proactively Released

4 Director-General Engagements

March

30-31 March DOC Senior Leadership Team Retreat, Pounui Homestead, Wairarapa

31 March Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards, Auckland

April

07 April Environment NGOs Forum, DOC Manners and MS Teams

13 April DOC Senior Leaders hui, Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington

15-16 April NZ Conservation Authority, Napier

29-30 April Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge, Wairarapa

May

11 May Te Urewera Board hui, Tāneatua (TBC)

13 May Tuwharetoa Māori Trust Board hui, Te Puni Kōkiri, Wellington

20 May Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Silverstream Retreat

Proactively Released